

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The rolling stock availability does not permit of deviation from the established pattern of traffic stream and/or lifting of additional traffic of different commodities beyond the target fixed, by the capacity that can be generated by the present holding of rolling stock. While a precise quantification is difficult, but there is a gap of 3 to 5 per cent in the demand for rail transport and its availability. The shortage is acutely felt in the busy period between November and March.

Shortage of coaches compels the Railways to keep in services sizeable fleet of overaged coaches.

(c) The programme for acquisition of locomotives, coaches and wagons would be stepped up in the coming years to the extent the allocation of funds and availability of foreign exchange and the indigenous production capacity would allow.

Detection of Illegal Electricity connections in Delhi

1930. SHRI B. L. SHARMA PREM : Will the Minister of POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the number of illegal electricity connections detected in Delhi during January to June, 1991 and particularly in East Delhi;

(b) the steps taken or proposed to be taken against the persons involved; and

(c) the steps the Delhi Electric Supply Undertaking propose to take to check theft of power?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF POWER AND NON-CONVENTIONAL ENERGY SOURCES (SHRI KALP NATH RAI): (a) to (c) Out of 494 cases of power theft detected by DESU during January to June, 1991, 189 cases pertained to East Delhi. 160 FIRs have

been lodged with the police against the persons involved in the power theft for prosecution, out of which 55 pertain to East Delhi. Theft of power has been made a cognizable offence under the Indian Electricity Act, 1910. DESU has intensified its drive against the power theft and other violations relating to use of electricity.

[Translation]

Reduction in number of halts of Long Distance Trains

1931. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to reduce the number of halts of long distance trains running from Indore to Delhi, Bombay, Howrah, Cochin and Bilaspur and convert these trains into superfast; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

New Train between Indore and New Delhi

1932. SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to run a new train between Indore and New Delhi via Nagda and Kota;

(b) whether there is any proposal to run a sleeping-car train between Indore and Lucknow; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.